UNITED
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its 34th meeting, on 22 April 1994, the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development approved the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work for the Conference contained in document A/CONF.171/PC/L.2, with the addition of an item entitled "Other matters". At the same meeting, the Committee also decided to transmit the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference contained in document A/CONF.171/PC/8, as orally amended, to the General Assembly for approval. The General Assembly approved the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference in decision 48/490. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned documents.

I. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

2. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1992/37, decided to convene the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. In resolution 1993/76, the Council recommended that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and decided to convene two-day pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference. The General Assembly, in resolution 48/186, endorsed fully Council resolution 1993/76. The pre-Conference consultations will take place on 3 and 4 September 1994. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach final agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, including the election of officers, the composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts in the General Committee among regional

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* A/CONF.171/1.

groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.171/2) provides that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 27 Vice-Presidents, an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. Those officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

4. Rule 9 provides that the Conference will have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice, the Presidency of the Conference would go to the host country. The 27 Vice-Presidents would be distributed according to the following geographical pattern: seven representatives from African States, six from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and six from Western European and other States.

5. Regional groups should endeavour to ensure that they will be in a position to make known their nominations for the posts in the General Committee at the pre-Conference consultations.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

6. The Conference will have before it the provisional rules of procedure approved by the General Assembly in decision 48/490. The provisional rules of procedure are contained in document A/CONF.171/2.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Preparatory Committee recommended for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda set out in document A/CONF.171/1.

V. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Organization of work

8. In accordance with the proposed organization of work of the Conference, which was approved by the Preparatory Committee, the Conference will be composed of a plenary and one main committee.

B. Allocation of items

9. It is proposed that items 1-8, 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meeting, and that item 9 (Programme of Action of the Conference) be allocated to the Main Committee. Negotiations on the Programme of Action will be carried out in the Main Committee while the general debate on item 8 is taking place in plenary meeting. Upon the conclusion of its work, the Main Committee will submit a report to the Conference.

C. General debate

10. The general debate on item 8 (Experiences concerning population and development strategies and programmes) will take place from the afternoon of 5 September to 9 September. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once in the general debate.

11. It is proposed that a time-limit of 10 minutes be established for statements by representatives of Governments, 7 minutes for statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations and United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, and 5 minutes for statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations.

D. Establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

12. The Main Committee of the Conference will meet from the afternoon of 5 September to 9 September. Its Chairman will be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. In accordance with the provisions of rule 50, the Main Committee will elect its own officers. It is proposed that, in accordance with rule 46 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, the Main Committee elect three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement of a secret ballot.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

13. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

F. Organization of meetings

14. The resources available to the Conference allow for a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, subcommittees, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to

regional or interest group meetings only when these are held in place of formal meetings.

15. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may also set up subcommittees and working groups. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by the conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

16. Meetings will normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the time scheduled.

VI. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

17. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session.

18. At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of Austria, the Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.

VII. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

19. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken in plenary meeting on its recommendations.

20. As has also been the practice, it is recommended that each regional group be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General to assist in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

First week (3-9 September)

Saturday, 3 September and Sunday, 4 September		Pre-Conference consultations
		PLENARY
Monday, 5 September		
10 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7 a/	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
3 p.m.	Item 8	Experiences concerning population and development strategies and programmes
		General debate
	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Tuesday, 6 September		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)

a/ Item 7 (b), "Report of the Credentials Committee", will be scheduled for consideration in plenary meeting at a date to be determined.

Wednesday, 7 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Item 8 General debate (continued)

12 noon Closure of the list of speakers on item 8

Thursday, 8 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Item 8 General debate (continued)

Friday, 9 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Item 8 General debate (concluded)

Second week (12 and 13 September)

Monday, 12 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Recommendations of the Main Committee on the Programme of Action of the Conference (item 9 of the provisional agenda)

Tuesday, 13 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Recommendations of the Main Committee (continued)

Item 10 Other matters

Item 11 Adoption of the report of the Conference

Closure of the Conference

MAIN COMMITTEE

First week (5-9 September)

Monday, 5 September

3 p.m.		Election of officers
		Organization of work
	Item 9	Programme of Action of the Conference

Tuesday, 6 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	Programme of Action (continued)

Wednesday, 7 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	Programme of Action (continued)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 9	

Thursday, 8 September

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	Programme of Action (continued)

Friday, 9 September

10 a.m.	Item 9	Programme of Action (concluded)
3 p.m.		Action on all outstanding matters
	Completion of the work of the Committee	